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SENATE

REPORT  
No. 1065

JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY MATTERS AFFECTING THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AUGUST 21, 1957.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HENNINGS. from the Committee on Rules and Administration,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 172]

The Committee on Rules and Administration to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 172) to establish a joint congressional committee to investigate matters pertaining to the growth and expansion of the District of Columbia and its metropolitan area, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with additional amendments and recommend that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to by the Senate.

This concurrent resolution would establish a joint committee of six members selected from the membership of the two Committees on the District of Columbia of the Congress to make a study of any and all matters pertaining to the District of Columbia and its metropolitan area. A further statement of the resolution's purposes may also be found in Senate Report No. 983, 85th Congress, 1st session.

The amendments added by the Committee on Rules and Administration fix the date for the submission by the joint committee of its preliminary findings and progress report to Congress, and the ending of its authorized funds, as of January 31, 1958. This is in pursuance of a policy of the Committee on Rules and Administration to authorize the expenditure of no sums from the contingent fund of the Senate beyond the first month of a succeeding congressional session.

The life of the joint committee, however, will extend to January 31, 1959, inclusive, or through the second session of the 85th Congress, when it is anticipated the joint committee will ask, and receive further amounts for its uses, and the present Committee on Rules and Administration so recommends.

The amount called for by this resolution for expenditure until January 31, is \$50,000.

Following is a statement detailing the necessity of the concurrent resolution from Senator Alan Bible, ranking majority member, and

Senator J. Glenn Beall, ranking minority member, of the Committee on the District of Columbia of the Senate, presented to the chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr.:

Mr. Chairman, we appear before the Senate Rules Committee this morning in behalf of House Concurrent Resolution 172, to establish a joint congressional committee to investigate matters pertaining to the growth and expansion of the District of Columbia and its metropolitan area.

The purpose of this resolution is to set up a joint committee consisting of 6 members, 3 to be appointed from the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia and 3 from the House Committee on the District of Columbia; the appointments to be made by the chairmen of the two District Committees.

1. This joint committee will be organized to study and investigate all and any matters pertaining to the District of Columbia concerning problems which are created by the tremendous growth of the District of Columbia and the metropolitan area surrounding it.

In line with this growth, we should like to study housing, taxes (comparisons of taxes in both Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia on real estate and personal incomes), traffic problems, water problems, health and educational problems, and many many other facets of urban development which are facing the District of Columbia. A more complete and inquiring study should be available to Members of Congress in this regard.

Many many times during the sessions from Congress to Congress, problems come up in the District Committees of both Houses whereby we of the committees are at a loss to determine how our adjoining neighbors are handling a similar problem, and whether we in the District of Columbia need their help or vice versa.

2. As set out in the report, this joint committee would also determine how and with what degree of success such problems are handled and resolved by the various agencies and instrumentalities of the Government which are charged with the duty of resolving such problems, and (3) how the resolution of such problems is affecting the affairs of the District of Columbia.

We of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia are in accord that this survey and investigation should be made as soon as possible. As we do not have home rule in the District of Columbia, it is our duty, we of the Congress, to properly legislate for this area. The problems involved in legislation are so complex and so interwoven with the welfare of the metropolitan area as well as the District of Columbia, that we find an urgent need for an adequate and complete study of all the problems involved.

There are commissions formed already which are investigating some of these problems, i. e., the Commissioners' Traffic Advisory Board, the Washington Metropolitan Regional Conference, the Commissioners' Fire Prevention

Advisory Council, and the District of Columbia Asiatic Influenza Committee. The joint committee can be aided greatly by the study of these organizations and would be able to implement them into the final report of the committee.

And let me say this, this study will be a great and invaluable asset to the United States in general because we expect it to aid many, many other large cities that have similar problems. We expect it to be a pilot study. As you know, these problems are facing all cities of the United States and comprise one of the gravest quandaries faced by city administrations today.

This joint committee will hire a staff with expert qualifications in the field of urban administration. The final expenses to be incurred by this joint committee are estimated to be \$80,000, which we feel would be adequate to serve the purposes set out previously to carry it into 1959.

We feel it is imperative that you give the committees of the Senate and the House the benefit of a thorough investigation into these problems of city and metropolitan development and administration as this will be an invaluable aid to both District committees. As a result of this study, it will also tremendously aid the people of the District of Columbia in obtaining comprehensive legislation.

